



Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Effective January 2010, the [NIH](#) has substantially revised its expectations for what constitutes adequate RCR training and now requires trainees to attend all 8 sessions to receive a certificate of completion. We recognize most trainees will have an occasional scheduling conflict, and accordingly, we expect individuals to take no longer than 2 years to complete the coursework.

Members of the HMS community on an NIH-sponsored training grant are **required** to complete the RCR training. This mandate has been extended to include all postdoctoral fellows *regardless of funding source*. If you can demonstrate completion of RCR training in the past 3 years (via a certificate), you may be relieved from fulfilling this requirement. If you have not completed the training, you must enroll in the course conducted by the Center for Bioethics within Harvard Medical School.

Each session will be co-facilitated by the course director, research faculty, and administrative deans. This course is meant to provide an opportunity to openly and critically reflect with your peers and others about what responsibility and integrity should mean to the professional scientific community. To that end, you will be expected to have done the readings prior to class and you will be expected to participate in discussion.

The topics covered in any yearly cycle will include:

- **Scientific Citizenship:** ethical and societal impacts of scientific research
- **Research Data Management:** acquisition, management, sharing, ownership, and laboratory tools
- **Authorship:** responsible authorship and publication practices
- **Research Integrity:** policies procedures for handling misconduct
- **Conflict of Interest:** personal, professional, and financial
- **Resilience and Inclusion:** Building resilient scientists through inclusive training
- **Collaborative Research:** collaborations with academia and industry
- **Peer Review:** promoting high quality science through review
- **Mentorship:** mentor/mentee responsibilities and relationships

For more information visit bioethics.hms.harvard.edu/rcr-responsible-conduct-research or e-mail RCR@hms.harvard.edu to be notified when the next series of sessions is scheduled.

Program Objectives

The Program in the Practice of Scientific Investigation (PPSI) was established in 1990 by the Division of Medical Ethics to provide education in the responsible conduct of research for postdoctoral research fellows. In 1999, Dean Martin mandated completion of the PPSI for all postdoctoral fellows working in laboratories in the Harvard Medical School Quad, regardless of funding source. The PPSI offers education in the responsible conduct of research to all postdoctoral fellows working in HMS labs.

Please note that the Center for Bioethics' RCR Course is primarily restricted to postdoctoral trainees working within Quad-based, HMS Faculty laboratories. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate requests from the hospital institutions with respect to training their clinical trainees.